

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) An antagonist which inhibits the activity or expression of ~~the a polypeptide of claim 11 comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 exhibits methionyl tRNA synthetase activity.~~

15-20. (cancelled)

21. (New) The antagonist of claim 11, wherein the polypeptide further comprises a heterologous amino acid sequence fused to SEQ ID NO:2.

22. (New) The antagonist of claim 21, wherein the polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

23. (New) An antagonist which inhibits the activity or expression of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fragment of amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 comprising at least 50 consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2; wherein the fragment exhibits methionyl tRNA synthetase activity.

24. (New) The antagonist of claim 23, wherein the polypeptide further comprises a heterologous amino acid sequence fused to the fragment of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (New) An antagonist which inhibits the activity or expression of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fragment of amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 comprising at least 30 consecutive amino acids of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2; wherein the fragment exhibits methionyl tRNA synthetase activity.

26. (New) The antagonist of claim 25, wherein the polypeptide further comprises a heterologous amino acid sequence fused to the fragment of SEQ ID NO:2.